

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IS, DA, PLO, UN

SUBJ: DANISH FONMIN K B ANDERSEN CAUTIONS ISRAEL AGAINST
POLICY OF CONFRONTATION

SUMMARY: FONMIN K B ANDERSEN CHASTIZES GOLDA MEIR FOR
LACK OF MOVEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUE AND TOSSES SMALL
BOUQUET TO PLO FOR ITS "MODERATION". ANDERSEN'S REMARKS
ARE CRITICIZED IN TURN BY DANISH OPPOSITION PARTIES. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY AKTUELST,
PUBLISHED NEW YEAR'S EVE, FONMIN K B ANDERSEN CHASTIZED
FORMER ISRAELI PREMIER GOLDA MEIR FOR HER CRITICAL REMARKS
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OF THE UN. "AS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAELI POLICY

DURING A PERIOD OF LITTLE MOVEMENT WHEN ONE OUGHT TO HAVE KNOWN THAT IF CHANGES DID NOT TAKE PLACE EVERYTHING WOULD GO WRONG, (MEIR) OUGHT TO BE A LITTLE MORE CAUTIOUS NOW ABOUT URGING SUCH A POLICY OF CONFRONTATION. A SMALL COUNTRY, OF COURSE, MUST HAVE ITS EXISTENCE SECURED, BUT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT EXPECT THE WORLD TO ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT NOT ONLY CAN TERRITORY BE CONQUERED BY WAR, BUT THAT IT CAN ALSO BE KEPT PERMANENTLY. THIS HAS BEEN THE DANISH POSITION THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. IF A CHANGE (IN THE DANISH VIEW) HAS TAKEN PLACE, IT IS WITH RESPECT TO THE ARAB WORLD...TODAY THE ARAB WORLD IS A REALITY TO US, AND THAT REALIZATION SHOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT OUR CONDUCT OF THE CAREFUL BALANCING ACT WHICH IS WHAT FOREIGN POLICY IS ALL ABOUT. OF COURSE, THE DANISH RECOGNITION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE ARAB WORLD DOES AFFECT OUR VIEWS EVEN THOUGH I MAINTAIN THAT OUR BASIC POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED."

2. K B ANDERSEN ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE OFFICIAL DANISH VIEW ON THE PLO, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE NOW CONSIDERED THE PLO TO BE ONE OF THE MORE MODERATE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS. "IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE DANISH POSITION THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. IF ONE IS TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL, IT WOULD BE BECAUSE OF THE ISRAELI REFUSAL TO PERMIT OR PROMOTE THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AMONG THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK. BECAUSE OF THAT, WE DO NOT HAVE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE POLITICAL GROUPINGS OF THE PALESTINIANS", THE MINISTER CONCLUDED.

3. COMMENT: THE DANES ARE TRYING TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS. FOLLOWING RECENT DANISH SUPPORT FOR THE ISRAELIS IN THE UN AND UNESCO, ANDERSEN FELT COMPELLED TO THROW A BOUQUET TO THE PLO. UNDERLYING IT ALL, HOWEVER, IS, OF COURSE, THE REALITY OF THE ARAB HAND ON THE OIL PUMP WHICH IS NOT LOST UPON THE PRAGMATIC DANES.

4. CONSIDERING THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD'S DEPENDENCE ON OIL FROM THE ARABS AND THE POTENTIAL MARKET THE ARABS OFFER FOR DANISH PRODUCTS, ANDERSEN IS MERELY EXPRESSING HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOGNITION OF AN ALREADY EXISTING SITUATION. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT WITHOUT ITS DANGERS IN DENMARK WHERE STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IS DOMINANT. OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS HAVE ALREADY CRITICIZED ANDERSEN'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PLO AS "MODERATE" AND HAVE CHALLENGED HIS AUTHORITY TO SPEAK FOR THE DANISH PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENT ON THE ISSUE.
DEAN

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